

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 48—RELATING TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION FORUM

Mr. THOMAS (for himself, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROTH, and Mr. SMITH of Oregon) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 48

Whereas the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum was created ten years ago to promote free and open trade and closer economic cooperation among its member countries, as well as to sustain economic growth and equitable development in the region for the common good of its people;

Whereas the twenty-one member countries of APEC account for 55 percent of total world income and 46 percent of global trade;

Whereas APEC Leaders are committed to intensifying regional economic interdependence by going forward with measures to expand trade and investment liberalization, pursuing sectoral cooperation and development initiatives, and increasing business facilitation and economic and technical cooperation projects;

Whereas a strong international financial system underpins the economic success of the region;

Whereas given the challenges presented by the financial crisis, APEC Leaders last year pledged to work together in improving and strengthening social safety nets, financial systems and capital markets, trade and investment flows, corporate sector restructuring, the regional scientific and technological base, human resources development, economic infrastructure, and existing business and commercial links for the purpose of supporting sustained growth into the 21st century;

Whereas the outstanding leadership of New Zealand during its year in the APEC Chair has produced a series of important themes for the annual APEC Leaders meeting in Auckland, New Zealand on September 12-14, 1999, including:

(1) expanding opportunities for private sector businesses through the reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers;

(2) strengthening the functioning of regional markets, with a particular focus on building institutional capacity, making public and corporate economic governance arrangements more transparent, and guiding regulatory reform so that benefits of trade liberalization are maximized; and

(3) broadening support for and understanding of APEC goals to demonstrate the positive benefits of the organization's work for the entire Asia-Pacific community;

Whereas the unique and close partnership between the public and private sectors exhibited through the APEC Forum has contributed to the successful conclusion of the GATT Uruguay Round and agreement over other multilateral trade pacts involving information technology, telecommunications and financial services;

Whereas APEC member countries have provided helpful momentum, through active consideration of the Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization plan, to the next round of multilateral trade negotiations scheduled to begin this year at the Third WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle, Washington;

Whereas the APEC Leaders have resolved to achieve the ambitious goal of free and open trade and investment in the region no later than 2010 for the industrialized econo-

mies and 2020 for developing economies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that Congress—

(1) acknowledges the importance of greater economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and the key role played by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum;

(2) urges the Administration fully to support the APEC Forum and work to achieve its goals of greater economic growth and stability;

(3) calls upon the Administration to continue its close cooperation with the private sector in advancing APEC goals; and

(4) expresses appreciation to the Government and people of New Zealand for their exceptional efforts in chairing the APEC Forum this year.

SECTION 2. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President and the Secretary of State.

SENATE RESOLUTION 162—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY OF EMPLOYEE OF THE SENATE IN STATE OF NEW MEXICO V. FELIX LUCERO CHAVEZ

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 162

Whereas, in the case of *State of New Mexico v. Felix Lucero Chavez*, No CR 4646-99, pending in the Metropolitan Court for Bernalillo County, New Mexico, a subpoena has been served on Kristen Ludecke, an employee of the Senate;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Kristen Ludecke is authorized to testify in the case of *State of New Mexico v. Felix Lucero Chavez*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SENATE RESOLUTION 163—TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE TO STUDY THE CAUSES OF FIREARMS VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

Mrs. BOXER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 163

Resolved,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) In the past eleven years, nearly 400,000 Americans have died from gunshots, and

about 35,000 Americans will die in 1999 because of gun violence;

(2) Death by gunshots is the second leading cause of accidental death in the United States and is expected to become the number one cause within the next four years;

(3) Treating gunshot injuries costs the American health care system approximately \$4.5 billion annually, with 80 percent of the costs paid for by the public in tax dollars or cost-shifting.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a special committee of the Senate to be known as the Special Committee on Firearms Violence (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "special committee").

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the special committee is—

(1) to study the causes of firearms violence in America;

(2) to make such findings of fact as are warranted and appropriate, including the impact of firearms violence on the well-being of American children; and

(3) to explore ways to reduce firearms violence in America, including increasing controls on the sale and distribution of firearms, and to make recommendations for such legislation and administrative actions as the special committee determines to be necessary and appropriate.

No proposed legislation shall be referred to the special committee, nor shall the special committee have power to report by bill or otherwise have legislative jurisdiction.

(c) **TREATMENT AS STANDING COMMITTEE.**—For purposes of paragraphs 1, 2, 7(a)(1) and (2), and 10(a) of rule XXVI and rule XXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and section 202(i) and (j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the special committee shall be treated as a standing committee of the Senate.

SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION.

(a) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—the special committee shall consist of 7 members of the Senate—

(A) 4 of whom shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate from the majority party of the Senate upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader of the Senate; and

(B) 3 of whom shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate from the minority party of the Senate upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(2) **VACANCIES.**—Vacancies in the membership of the special committee shall not affect the authority of the remaining members to execute the functions of the special committee and shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments are made.

(3) **SERVICE.**—For the purpose of paragraph 4 of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, service of a Senator as a member, chairman, or vice chairman of the special committee shall not be taken into account.

(b) **CHAIRMAN.**—The chairman of the special committee shall be selected by the Majority Leader of the Senate and the vice chairman of the special committee shall be selected by the Minority Leader of the Senate. The vice chairman shall discharge such responsibilities as the special committee or the chairman may assign.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For the purposes of this resolution, the special committee is authorized, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;